

XXVI. *An Account of several Plants presented to the Linnean Society, at different Times, by Mr. John Fairbairn and Mr. Thomas Hoy, Fellows of the Linnean Society. By the President.*

Read March 1, 1791.

I. COSTUS speciosus.

COSTUS foliis subtus fericeo-villosis.

C. arabicus. Jacqu. Ic. Rar. vol. i. t. 1. Collect. vol. 1. 143.

Banksea speciosa. Konig. Monandr. 75.

Tsjana-kua. Rheed. Mal. vol. xi. 15, t. 8?

Herba spiralis hirsuta. Rumph. Amb. vol. vi. 143, t. 64, f. 1?

Native of the East Indies.

Flowered in Sion Gardens in 1790. *Mr. Hoy. 4*

This fine plant has been very improperly confounded with the *Costus arabicus* of Linnæus. The latter is the species described in his *Hortus Cliffortianus*, of which a drawing by Ehret is in the library of Sir Joseph Banks, but its synonyms are even in that work much confused. It is probable there may be many species comprehended under those synonyms, nor is our present knowledge

of the subject sufficient to extricate their differences. The above specific character is proposed for the present, for want of a better.

It is doubtful whether the above synonym of Hort. Mal. belongs to this species, though much resembling it, except that in that figure the lower lip of the corolla is perfectly entire, in ours it is trifid and undulated.

Rumphius's *Herba spiralis hirsuta* may be our plant; but who can judge from his miserable diminished figures in so nice a point?

Professor Jacquin's magnificent figure, and full description, render all further observations unnecessary; except that he has omitted to mention the spiral contortion of the stem, remarkable in this plant, and which has led us to the application of Rumphius's synonym.

2. STATICE latifolia.

STATICE scapo paniculato ramosissimo scabro, foliis pubescentibus, pilis fasciculato-stellatis.

Limonium folio Enulæ, flabellis tenuissimis ramosissimis, floribus parvis cæruleis. *Gerber. MSS. Herb. Linn.*

First gathered by Gerber in Russian Tartary, on the banks of the river Don, near Asoph.

Flowered in Sion Gardens in 1788. *Mr. Hoy. 4*

Leaves all radical, oblong, a foot or more in length, entire, slightly undulated, sometimes emarginated, pubescent and soft to the touch, being sprinkled all over with little stellated fasciculi of soft short hairs.

Stalks very much branched, and spreading in every direction, covered with the same kind of pubescence as the leaves,
but

but rather more harsh; *branches* roundish, alternate, terminating in simple horizontal racemi. *Braçteæ* small, concave, acute, two together at each division of the panicle, one of which is placed on the outside of the branch at its base, and the other in its axilla.

Flowers mostly two together, emerging from two small *braçteæ*, like those on the stalk; but furnished also with two larger and more obtuse *braçteæ*, with a large membranous margin.

Calyx tubular, membranous, five-toothed, whitish, with five green angles.

Corolla longer than the calyx, blue.

Antheræ yellow.

This species should be placed after *Statice Limonium*.

3. S E M P E R V I V U M stellatum.

SEMPERVIVUM caule herbaceo pubescente, foliis spatulatis sparsis.

Sedum petræum rotundifolium, flore luteo stellato Montis Baldi. *Seguier. Veron. vol. ii. 360, t. 17.*

Found by John Baptist Scarella, on the rocks of Mount Baldus. *Seguier.*

Abundant in Chelsea Garden, where it flowers every year. *Mr. Fairbairn. ©*

This whole plant is, as it were, a representation in miniature of *Sempervivum arboreum*, but more lax and diffuse. It is abundantly distinguished from that species by its annual root, herbaceous pubescent stem, and spreading panicle. The flowers are yellow, and agree perfectly with the generic character of *Sempervivum*, not with that of *Sedum*.

If the synonym of Seguier above quoted be right, we learn from thence the native country of this plant, which has long been cultivated at Chelsea; but from whence it was brought is not known.

This Sempervivum is extremely different from the Sedum alfinæfolium of Allioni; but may perhaps be the *Sempervivum alpinum Montis Baldi, foliis lenticulatis, floribus non punctatis*, of Mauritius Hoffman, mentioned by that author in his *Specimen Pedemontanum*, p. 16.

4. ASTRAGALUS leucophæus.

ASTRAGALUS caulescens procumbens, leguminibus subcylindricis rectis glabris, foliolis obcordatis subtus villosis.

Communicated by Mr. Fairbairn from Chelsea Garden, 1788. 4

The native country of this Astragalus is unknown. It appears to be an old inhabitant of Chelsea Garden, and was marked with the name of *Astragalus pilosus* in Miller's Herbarium. It has, however, no affinity to the *A. pilosus* of Linnæus, nor does it even agree with the description of that plant in Miller's Dictionary.

Our plant is allied to *A. hamosus*; but differs from that species in having rounder leaves, more flowers in a spike, and especially in having straight, not recurved, pods, only half the length of those of *A. hamosus*.

5. MIMOSA myrtifolia.

MIMOSA foliis ovato-lanceolatis obliquis undulatis acuminatis margine cartilagineis: primordialibus pinnatis.

Raised

Raised from seeds brought from New South Wales, in Sion Gardens, where it flowered in 1790.

Mr. Hoy. $\frac{1}{2}$

The *Branches* are somewhat angular.

Leaves alternate, oblique, of a glaucous green, very much undulated, and near two inches in length, with a strong central rib.

Flowers on the young branches very numerous, fragrant like those of *Spiræa Ulmaria*, and growing three or four together, in little heads.

Calyx small, green, obsoletely ciliated.

Corolla greenish white, sometimes reddish, of four petals.

Stamina numerous.

6. MIMOSA *fuaveolens*.

MIMOSA foliis linearibus acuminatis rectis margine cartilagineis : primordialibus pinnatis, ramis triquetris.

Flowered 1790, in Sion Gardens, from seeds brought from New South Wales. Mr. Hoy. $\frac{1}{2}$

The *Branches* are most acutely triangular, and much compressed; their edges bright red.

Leaves alternate, four or five inches long, with a rib and margin like the last.

Flowers in axillary *racemi*, yellowish white, fragrant, of four petals.

Stamina numerous.

Young *Capsules* smooth and glaucous.

This species, as well as the preceding one, belongs to that singular tribe of *Mimosas*, for the knowledge of which we are

indebted to the southern hemisphere, all which have totally different leaves in their adult state from what they produce at first springing out of the ground. The seedling plants bear conjugated pinnated leaves, like most of this genus; but the common footstalks of the succeeding leaves being gradually dilated, at length lose their foliola, and assume the appearance of simple entire leaves; nor does the tree afterwards produce any other. We have no description of the seedling leaves of *Mimosa simplicifolia* (*Linn. Suppl.*), but it is probable they also are at first of the pinnated kind,